

Ntando Yola

Bio

Ntando Yola has worked in HIV prevention research at the Desmond Tutu HIV Foundation (DTHF) in Cape Town for the last 8 years. In his role as a Community Engagement Coordinator, has worked closely with various, national and international HIV prevention research networks. His work has involved, developing and implementing community education programmes and involvement of communities in HIV prevention trials. As part of these programs, he has been involved in formation of partnerships with health service providers, and engaging community based organizations to ensure voices of key stakeholders in HIV prevention trials are heard. All of this work has largely taken place in the trial communities of Masiphumelele and Nyanga townships of Cape Town for HIV vaccine, microbicide, and pre-exposure prophylaxis clinical trials. His work is driven by a desire to involve communities in research, hear their voices and see them take ownership as part of achieving an end to the AIDS epidemic.

He is also a 2013 AVAC HIV Prevention Research Fellow, hosted by NACOSA. In his fellowship, Ntando will explore opportunities and develop strategies for broad stakeholder engagement in clinical trials across South Africa (SA). Promoting the Good Participatory Practice (GPP) Guidelines, ensure a systematic involvement of communities and stakeholders in trials. This would happen through a formation of a national forum that will bring together all stakeholders from trial communities, Community Advisory Boards, civil society and advocacy groups. This forum would provide a framework of broad stakeholder engagement, HIV prevention research literacy and inform an agenda that will support research as well as look at advocacy issues within the trial process. One of the key deliverables would be to have the HIV prevention research agenda linked and featured in the HIV/AIDS, STI and TB National Strategic Plan of (NSP) of SA.

Ntando is also involved with the South African AIDS Council (SANAC); Men's sector Western Cape serving as a Secretary.